

## REL

So far as service imports duty and subjection, all created beings bear the necessary relation of servants to God. *South.*  
Our necessary relations to a family, oblige all to use their reasoning powers upon a thousand occasions. *Watts.*

2. Respect; reference; regard.  
I have been importuned to make some observations on this art, in relation to its agreement with poetry. *Dryden.*  
Relation consists in the consideration and comparing one idea with another. *Locke.*

3. Connexion between one thing and another.  
Augurs, that understand relations, have  
By magpies, choughs and rooks brought forth  
The secret man of blood. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

4. Kindred; alliance of kin.  
Relations dear, and all the charities  
Of fathers, son and brother first were known. *Milton.*  
Be kindred and relation laid aside,  
And honour's cause by laws of honour try'd. *Dryden.*

Are we not to pity and supply the poor, though they have no relation to us? no relation? that cannot be: the gospel files them all our brethren; nay, they have a nearer relation to us, our fellow-members; and both these from their relation to our Saviour himself, who calls them his brethren. *Sprat.*  
A the-cousin, of a good family and small fortune, passed months among all her relations. *Swift.*

Dependants, friends, relations,  
Savag'd by woe, forget the tender tie. *Thompson.*  
6. Narrative; tale; account; narration; recital of facts.  
In an historical relation, we use terms that are most proper. *Burnet's Theory of the Earth.*

The author of a just fable, must please more than the writer of an historical relation. *Dennis's Letters.*

RELATIVE, *adj.* [relations, Lat. *relativus*, Fr.]  
1. Having relation; respecting.  
Not only simple ideas and substances, but modes are positive beings; though the parts of which they consist, are very often relative one to another. *Locke.*  
2. Considered not absolutely, but as belonging to, or respecting something else.

The ecclesiastical, as well as the civil government, has cause to pursue the same methods of confirming himself; the grounds of government being founded upon the same bottom of nature in both, though the circumstances and relative considerations of the persons may differ. *South.*

Every thing sustains both an absolute and a relative capacity: an absolute, as it is such a thing, endued with such a nature; and a relative, as it is a part of the universe, and so stands in such relation to the whole. *South.*

Whole and unwhole are relative, not real qualities. *Arbutnot on Aliments.*

3. Particular; positive; close in connection. Not in use.

More relative than this. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

RELATIVE, *n. f.*

1. Relation; kinsman.  
'Tis an evil dutifulness in friends and relatives, to suffer one to perish without reproof. *Taylor.*

2. Pronoun answering to an antecedent.  
Learn the right joining of substantives with adjectives, and the relative with the antecedent. *Ascham's Schoolmaster.*

3. Somewhat respecting something else.

When the mind so considers one thing, that it sets it by another, and carries its view from one to the other, this is relation and respect; and the denominations given to positive things, intimating that respect, are relatives. *Locke.*

RELATIVELY, *adv.* [from relative.] As it respects something else; not absolutely.

All those things, that seem so foul and disagreeable in nature, are not really so in themselves, but only relatively. *More.*  
These being the greatest good or the greatest evil, either absolutely so in themselves, or relatively so to us; it is therefore good to be zealously affected for the one against the other. *Sprat.*

Consider the absolute affections of any being as it is in itself, before you consider it relatively, or survey the various relations in which it stands to other beings. *Watts.*

RELATIVENESS, *n. f.* [from relative.] The state of having relation.

To RELAX, *v. a.* [relaxo, Lat.]

1. To slacken; to make less tense.  
The finews, when the southern wind bloweth, are more relax. *Bacon's Natural History.*

2. To remit; to make less severe or rigorous.  
The statute of mortmain was at several times relaxed by the legislature. *Swift.*

3. To make less attentive or laborious.  
Nor praise relax, nor difficulty fright. *Vanity of Wishes.*

4. To ease; to divert.

5. To open; to loose.

To RELAX, *v. n.* To be mild; to be remiss; to be not rigorous.

If in some regards the chose  
To curb poor Paulo in too close;  
In others the relax'd again,  
And govern'd with a looser rein. *Prior.*

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RELAXATION, *n. f.* [relaxatio, Fr. *relaxatio*, Lat.]  
1. Diminution of tension; the act of loosening.  
Cold sweats are many times mortal; for that they come by a relaxation or forsaking of the spirits. *Bacon.*  
Many, who live healthy in a dry air, fall into all the diseases that depend upon relaxation in a moist one. *Arbutnot.*

2. Cessation of restraint.  
The sea is not higher than the land, as some imagined the sea flood upon heap higher than the shore; and at the deluge a relaxation being made, it overflow'd the land. *Burnet.*

3. Remission; abatement of rigour.  
They childishly granted, by common consent of their whole senate, under their town seal, a relaxation to one Bertelier, whom the elderhip had excommunicated. *Hoecker.*

The relaxation of the statute of mortmain, is one of the reasons which gives the bishop terrible apprehensions of poverty coming on us. *Swift.*

4. Remission of attention or application.  
As God has not so devoted our bodies to toil, but that he allows us some recreation: so doubtless he indulges the same relaxation to our minds. *Government of the Tongue.*

There would be no business in solitude, nor proper relaxations in business. *Addison's Freeholder.*

RELAX, *v. n.* [relaxo, Fr.] Horfies on the road to relieve others.

To RELEASE, *v. a.* [relascere, Lat.]

1. To set free from confinement or servitude.  
Pilate said, whom will ye that I release unto you? *Mat.*

You releas'd his courage, and set free  
A valour fatal to the enemy. *Dryden.*

Why should a reasonable man put it into the power of fortune to make him miserable, when his ancestors have taken care to release him from her? *Dryden.*

2. To set free from pain.

3. To free from obligation.  
Too secure, because from death releas'd some days. *Mil.*

4. To quit; to let go.  
He had been base, had he releas'd his right,  
For such an empire none but kings should fight. *Dryden.*

5. To relax; to slacken. Not in use.

It may not seem hard, if in cases of necessity certain profitable ordinances sometimes be releas'd, rather than all men always strictly bound to the general rigor thereof. *Hoecker.*

RELEASE, *n. f.* [relascho, Fr. from the verb.]

1. Dimission from confinement, servitude or pain.  
O fatal sear! in which the lab'ring mind,  
Still press'd with weight of woe, still hopes to find  
A shadow of delight, a dream of peace,  
From years of pain, one moment of release. *Prior.*

2. Relaxation of a penalty.

3. Remission of a claim.  
The king made a great feast, and made a release to the provinces, and gave gifts. *Ezra. ii. 18.*

The king would not have one penny abated, of what had been granted by parliament; because it might encourage other countries to pray the like release or mitigation. *Bacon.*

4. Acquittance from a debt signed by the creditor.

To RELEGATE, *v. a.* [relegare, Fr. *relego*, Lat.] To banish; to exile.

RELEGATION, *n. f.* [relegatio, Fr. *relegatio*, Lat.] Exile; judicial banishment.

According to the civil law, the extraordinary punishment of adultery was deportation or relegation. *Ayliffe.*

To RELENT, *v. n.* [relentir, Fr.]

1. To soften; to grow less rigid or hard; to give.  
In some houses, sweetmeats will relent more than in others. *Bacon.*

In that soft season, when descending show'rs  
Call forth the greens, and wake the rising flow'rs;  
When opening buds salute the welcome day,  
And earth relenting feels the genial ray. *Pope.*

2. To melt; to grow moist.  
Crows seem to call upon rain, which is but the comfort they seem to receive in the relenting of the air. *Bacon.*

Salt of tartar, brought to fusion, and placed in a cellar, will, in a few minutes, begin to relent, and have its surface softened by the imbibed moisture of the air, wherein if it be left long, it will totally be dissolved. *Boyle.*

All nature mourns, the skies relent in show'rs,  
Hush'd are the birds, and clos'd the drooping flow'rs;  
If Delia smile, the flow'rs begin to spring,  
The skies to brighten, and the birds to sing. *Pope.*

3. To grow less intense.  
I have marked in you a relenting truly, and a slackening of the main career, you had so notably begun, and almost performed. *Sidney.*

The workmen let glass cool by degrees in such relentings of fire, as they call their nealing heats, lest it should shiver in pieces by a violent succeeding of air. *Digby on Bodies.*

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4. To soften in temper; to grow tender; to feel compassion.  
Can you behold  
My tears, and not once relent? *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*

I'll not be made a soft and dull-eyed fool.  
To shake the head, relent, and sigh, and yield  
To christian intercessors. *Shakespeare. Merch. of Venice.*

Undoubtedly he will relent, and turn  
From his displeasure. *Milton.*

He sung, and hell confented  
To hear the poet's pray'r;  
Stern Prosperine relenting,  
And gave him back the fair. *Pope.*

To RELINT, *v. a.*

1. To slacken; to remit. Obsolete.  
Apace he shot, and yet he fled apace,  
And oftentimes he would relent his pace,  
That him his foe more fiercely should pursue. *Fa. Queen.*

2. To soften; to mollify. Obsolete.  
Air hated earth, and water hated fire,  
Till love relenting their rebellious ire. *Spenser.*

RELENTLESS, *adj.* [from relent.]

1. Unpitiful; unmoved by kindness or tenderness.  
For this th' avenging pow'r employs his darts;  
Thus will persist, relentless in his ire,  
Till the fair slave be render'd to her fire. *Dryden.*

Why should the weeping hero now  
Relentless to their wiles prove. *Prior.*

2. In *Milton*, it perhaps signifies unremitted; intently fixed upon disquieting objects.

Only in destroying, I find ease  
To my relentless thoughts. *Milton's Par. Lost.*

RELEVANT, *adj.* [French.] Relieving. *Dist.*

RELEVANCE, *n. f.* [relevatio, Lat.] A raising or lifting up.

RELIANCE, *n. f.* [from rely.] Trust; dependance; confidence; repose of mind. With us before the object of trust.

His days and times are past,  
And my reliance on his fracted dates  
Has suit my credit. *Shakespeare. Timon of Athens.*

That pellucid gelatinous substance, which he pitches upon with so great reliance and positiveness, is chiefly of animal constitution. *Woodward.*

He secured and encreased his prosperity, by an humble behaviour towards God, and a dutiful reliance on his providence. *Asterbury's Sermons.*

They afforded a sufficient conviction of this truth, and a firm reliance on the promises contained in it. *Rogers.*

Religion in death, and reliance on the divine mercies, give comfort to the friends of the dying. *Clarissa.*

Misfortunes often reduce us to a better reliance, than that we have been accustomed to fix upon. *Clarissa.*

RELICK, *n. f.* [reliquie, Lat. *reliquie*, Fr.]

1. That which remains; that which is left after the loss or decay of the rest. It is generally used in the plural.

Up dreary dame of darkness queen,  
Go gather up the reliques of thy race,  
Or else go them avenge. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Shall we go see the reliques of this town. *Shakespeare.*

The fragments, scraps, the bits and greasy reliques  
Of her o'ercreant faith are bound to Diomedes. *Shakespeare.*

Nor death itself can wholly wash their stains,  
But long contracted filth ev'n in the soul remains;  
The reliques of inveterate vice they wear,  
And spots of sin. *Dryden's Ensis.*

2. It is often taken for the body deserted by the soul.

What needs my Shakespeare for his honour'd bones,  
The labour of an age in piled stones;  
Or that his hallow'd reliques should be hid  
Under a star-ypoind pyramid. *Milton.*

In peace, ye shades of our great grandfathers, rest;  
Eternal spring, and rising flow'rs adorn  
The reliques of each venerable urn. *Dryden.*

Shall our reliques second birth receive?  
Sleep we to wake, and only die to live? *Prior.*

Thy reliques, Rowe, to this fair shrine we trust,  
And sacred place by Dryden's awful dust;  
Beneath a rude and nameless stone he lies,  
To which thy tomb shall guide enquiring eyes. *Pope.*

3. That which is kept in memory of another, with a kind of religious veneration.

Cowls flutter'd into rags, then reliques leaves  
The sport of winds. *Milton.*

This church is very rich in reliques; among the rest, they show a fragment of Thomas à Becket, as indeed there are very few treasures of reliques in Italy, that have not a tooth or a bone of this saint. *Addison's Remarks on Italy.*

RELICKLY, *adv.* [from relick.] In the manner of reliques.

Thrifty wench scrapes kitchen stuff,  
And barreling the droppings and the muck  
Of wasting candles, which in thirty year  
Relickly kept, perhaps buys wedding cheer. *Donne.*

RELICT, *n. f.* [relicto, old Fr. *relicto*, Lat.] A widow; a wife desolate by the death of her husband.

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If the fathers and husbands were of the household of faith, then certainly their reliques and children cannot be strangers in this household. *Sprat's Sermons.*

Chaste relief!  
Honour'd on earth, and worthy of the love  
Of such a spouse, as now resides above. *Garth.*

RELIEF, *n. f.* [relief, Fr.]

1. The prominence of a figure in stone or metal; the seeming prominence of a picture.

The figures of many ancient coins rise up in a much more beautiful relief than those on the modern; the face sinking by degrees in the several declensions of the empire, till about Constantine's time, it lies almost even with the surface of the medal. *Addison on Ancient Medals.*

Not with such majesty, such bold relief,  
The forms august of kings, or conqu'ring chief,  
E'er swell'd on marble, as in verse have shin'd,  
In polish'd verse, the manners and the mind. *Pope.*

2. The recommendation of any thing, by the interposition of something different.

3. Alleviation of calamity; mitigation of pain or sorrow.  
Thoughts in my unquiet breast are risen,  
Tending to some relief of our extremes. *Milton.*

4. That which frees from pain or sorrow.  
So should we make our death a glad relief  
From future shame. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

Nor dar'd I to presume, that press'd with grief,  
My flight should urge you to this dire relief;  
Stay, stay your steps. *Dryden's Amis.*

5. Dimission of a sentinel from his post.  
For this relief, much thanks; 'tis bitter cold,  
And I am sick at heart. *Shakespeare. Hamlet.*

6. [Relictum, law Lat.] Legal remedy of wrongs.

RELIEVABLE, *adj.* [from relieve.] Capable of relief.

Neither can they, as to reparation, hold plea of things, wherein the party is relievable by common law. *Hale.*

To RELIEVE, [relievo, Lat. *relever*, Fr.]

1. To recommend by the interposition of something dissimilar.  
As the great lamp of day,  
Through diff'rent regions, does his course pursue,  
And leaves one world but to revive a new;  
While, by a pleasing change, the queen of night  
Relieves his lustre with a milder light. *Stepney.*

Since the inculcating precept upon precept will prove tiresome, the poet must not encumber his poem with too much business; but sometimes relieve the subject with a moral reflection. *Addison's Essay on the Georgicks.*

2. To support; to assist.  
Parallels, or like relations, alternately relieve each other; when neither will pass afunder, yet are they pleasurable together. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

3. To ease pain or sorrow.

4. To succour by assistance.  
From thy growing store,  
Now lend assistance, and relieve the poor;  
A pittance of thy land will set him free. *Dryden.*

5. To set a sentinel at rest, by placing another on his post.  
Honest soldier, who hath relieved you?  
—Bernado has my place, give you good night. *Shakespeare.*

Relieve the centries that have watch'd all night. *Dryden.*

6. To right by law.

RELIEVER, *n. f.* [from relieve.] One that relieves.

He is the protector of his weakness, and the reliever of his wants. *Rogers's Sermons.*

RELIEVO, *n. f.* [Italian.] The prominence of a figure or picture.

A convex mirror makes the objects in the middle come out from the superficies: the painter must do so in respect of the lights and shadows of his figures, to give them more relieve and more strength. *Dryden's Dunciad.*

To RELIGHT, *v. a.* [re and light.] To light anew.

His pow'r can heal me, and relight my eye. *Pope.*

RELIGION, *n. f.* [religion, Fr. *religio*, Lat.]

1. Virtue, as founded upon reverence of God, and expectation of future rewards and punishments.

He that is void of fear, may soon be just,  
And no religion binds men to be traitors. *Benj. Johnson.*

One spoke much of right and wrong,  
Of justice, of religion, truth and peace  
And judgment from above. *Milton.*

If we consider it as directed against God, it is a breach of religion; if as to men, it is an offence against morality. *South.*

By her inform'd, we best religion learn,  
Its glorious object by her aid discern. *Blackmore.*

Religion or virtue, in a large sense, includes duty to God and our neighbour; but in a proper sense, virtue signifies duty towards men, and religion duty to God. *Watts.*

2. A system of divine faith and worship as opposite to others.

The image of a brute, adorn'd  
With gay religions, full of pomp and gold. *Milton.*

The christian religion, rightly understood, is the deepest and choicest piece of philosophy that is. *More.*

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